Organise! friends of the International Workers' Association
Southern Bulletin

CLASS WAR

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ORGANISE!

FOR A NEW WORLD

It has been roughly two years since the last issue of Class War, and it seems very little has changed. Far right agitators continue to spread fear and disinformation, both nationally and internationally. This fear and disinformation led to violent riots on the streets of Dublin City following a stabbing outside a school on Dublin's Parnell Street on November 23, 2023. The far right immediately pounced on this unfortunate incident, and twisted the narrative to suit their own violent ends, stirring up hatred and violence, which led to buses and trams being set alight in what for many was a night of terror.

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ORGANISE!

FOR A NEW WORLD

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The cost of living continues to rise, and many are left struggling to afford housing, or forced to live at home with their parents due to high rent and house prices. Here in Ireland, vulture funds continue to buy up family homes, despite legislation which is supposedly in place to prevent this. Year on year, we are also seeing the climate crisis worsen, leading to growing incidents of extreme weather events.

The words of Emma Goldman ('if voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal') ring true today for us anarchists. However, it is worth noting that the sort of uncertain times we find ourselves in, both economically and otherwise, have historically seen people voting for extremes.

In the same week that Germany's coalition government collapsed, Trump was elected US president for a second term, and Taoiseach Simon Harris called a general election for November 29 th . While an election in Germany is unlikely to be held before February or March of 2025, it is projected that it will be heavily contested by the AfD (Alternative for Germany). Current German chancellor Olaf Scholz has been forecast to be replaced by Friedrich Merz- not only has Merz been vocal in his condemnation of so-called criminal immigrants and gender inclusive language, he is also a supporter of Donald Trump.

Trump's views on immigration and LGBTQ+ rights are well known from his first term in office, and he has a long list of sexual assault allegations. Trump's victory once again acted as a catalyst for his far right supporters, sparking a wave of misogynist abuse online. Self styled political commentator Nicholas Fuentes took to X to post 'your body, my choice. Forever,' while others made similar posts glorifying sexual assault and gender-based violence.

While the zionist religious right in the US have already had wins with the overturning of Roe v Wade and the introduction of the Florida Parental Rights in Education Act, Trump's victory will likely see this group make greater gains with the enaction of Project 2025. This will likely see the criminalisation of pornography and sex work, greater attacks on reproductive rights as attacks on minorities and deportations of illegal immigrants.

Here at home, the run up to the general election was called, it was announced that the government would use Dail privilege to finally pass the Occupied Territories Bill, which has been on the table since 2018, and which would criminalise trade with Israel. However, week finished out, and the Dail was dissolved without the promised bill being passed-it would seem this was just a proverbial carrot being dangled in front of voters to ensure almost a century of Fine Gael/Fianna Fail control would continue.

The far right, emboldened by gains in the European elections, are campaigning heavily in the general election. Recently, the National Party opportunistically chose Stardust Campaigner Antoinette Keegan to run as a candidate in Dublin North. It is ironic that someone who not only survived a fire, but lost two family members in the same tragedy would choose to knowingly align themselves with the prominent group of arsonists in the country. The backlash from antifascists and Keegan's fellow Stardust campaigners saw her step down mere days after she was announced.

It should also be noted that groups like the National Party are not the only ones to scapegoat immigrants. Recently, we saw Taoiseach Simon Harris directly link immigration to higher levels of homelessness. This was an obvious attempt to shift the blame away from the government and their failed housing policies. Under the current government, homelessness figures have risen to over 14,000.

It is clear to us that the system is broken beyond repair. Neoliberal policy has decimated our planet through war, genocide, climate change and greater economic uncertainty. The time is now to organise in order to not only resist the fascist creep, but to create the world we want. In the words of Buenaventura Durruti, 'we carry a new world, here in our hearts. That world is growing this minute.'

WELCOME TO CLASS WAR!

Welcome to the latest edition of Class War, the anarcho-syndicalist bulletin from members of Organise! in the Republic of Ireland.

The name of our bulleting is inspired by Camillo Berneri's newspaper *Guerre de Classe* which was edited by him in Italy and then, in exile, in Spain until his assassination on May 5th 1937. Berneri along with Francesco Barbieri were taken out of their apartment by a dozen plainclothes men with red armbands and police. The corpses of the two Italian anarchists were found riddled with bullets - assassinated by Stalinist counter-revolutionaries during the Spanish Civil War.

Our focus is unashamedly working class. We would refute however that there is anything 'reductionist' about asserting this. We see class as the fundamental cleavage in society and the working class, as a whole, as the group which has a real interest in the destruction of capitalist exploitation and oppression and the replacement of states, nations and corporations with a new world based on equality, freedom and libertarian communism.

We do not hold with stereotypical notions of a white, male industrial working class. We see capitalism as a racialised, and (while patriarchy is older than capitalism) patriarchal system. Nor do we idealise the working class, we are kept in ignorance and fed a diet of misinformation in order to keep us ignorant, brutalised and divided. We are deliberately distracted from our common interests and conned into the mistaken belief that we have interests in common with our 'native' bosses and politicians.

For us the working class consists in the vast majority of humanity and in this majority lies the hope for a social revolution that can save us all from the barbarism and destruction of capitalist greed and war.

RECRUITMENT FREEZE AT HSE
HEALTH SERVICE ON IT'S KNEES

To say that the healthcare system in this country is on its knees is, quite frankly, putting it mildly. While the NHS is not without its faults, this article will focus solely on the HSE. The Health Service Executive, responsible for providing public health and social care services in this country, is consistently being run over budget. Its a crippled, broken service that leaves workers struggling to provide the level of high quality service that the public want and deserve. My experience is primarily as a nurse working within the health service, and that is where my focus lies. This in no way diminishes the role played by others working within the same system.

In 2019, the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) went on strike for the second time ever in their history (the first strike took place in 1999, and at this point there was no strike pay for workers). The strike in 2019 was for better pay for nurses, and safer staffing levels. Four years on, hospitals are still overcrowded, patients are still left sleeping on trolleys, and the INMO, the largest union for nurses in the country, still campaign for minimum safe staffing levels.

While the HSE had been engaging with trade unions supporting healthcare workers to resolve issues around staffing, it was announced in September that yet another recruitment embargo had come into effect. This latest employment freeze, the result of the HSE's Pay and Numbers Strategy, has suppressed hundreds of jobs throughout the health service. Any position which was vacant as of December 2023 can no longer be filled, and staff who leave for any reason (maternity leave, retirement, etc) cannot be replaced. Intellectual Disability services, which now fall under Roderic O'Gorman's Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, are exempt from this recruitment freeze. However, due to the fact that the information from the HSE is not explicit on this fact, many services are not recruiting staff.

A report published in May 2023 and conducted by the INMO highlighted extreme levels of burnout, with 94% of respondents claiming they were negatively affected psychologically by their job. However, this extreme level of burnout experienced by nursing staff was not solely due to the negative impacts of working on the frontline during a global pandemic. A previous study conducted as far back as 2011 reported extreme levels of compassion fatigue-workers becoming burnt out due to employers putting unrealistic expectations on them, and leaning on their empathy to effectively guilt them into working overtime.

Under the Pay and Numbers Strategy, this burn out will only worsen. Health care workers do not get breaks in a timely manner. Many public health nurses have to have their lunch while driving from one visit to the next. In order to manage the workload effectively, staff are being required to take on extra when colleagues leave, or carry out the roles of staff in other disciplines (e.g. speech and language therapists reviewing patients through the nurses caring for them). And health care workers are also subject to violence and abuse from patients and their families.

During the Dublin Riot of 2023, migrant health care workers were targeted by the far right and those that they goaded to violence. In response, Leo Varadkar, Taoiseach at the time, told migrant workers how valued they were. And its true - without migrant workers, the health service would die on its arse. However, such compliments from the 'leader' of the country cannot help but come off as disingenuous when promised pandemic payments or cost of living pay increases are constantly delayed. Or when the Health Service Executive consistently decide recruitment freezes are a viable solution to reducing over spending. Following the recruitment freeze in 2008, it took roughly 10 years to get staffing back to any sort of sustainable level. The HSE need to be held to account for a strategy which serves no other purpose than to make working conditions intolerable for health care workers and compromise patient safety.

Build A Working Class Alternative!

Before it's too late...

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland affiliated to the International Worker's Association as a 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, particularly those organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked over by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, and sick of a greedy bosses and landlords getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy, racism and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

In the South of Ireland we currently have members and contacts in Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Letterkenny, Monaghan, and elsewhere and we are actively building our membership. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at:

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com

email: OrganiseASyndIreland@gmail.com

ORGANISE! SOLIDARITY WITH THE CNT-AIT ACTION IN BELFAST

Representatives of Organise! from Belfast, Derry, Monaghan, Newry and Portadown took part in a solidarity action with the CNT-AIT at the Spanish Civil War International memorial; in Writer's Square in Belfast on Sunday 3rd on November.

In an attempt that is nothing short of union busting, using the apparatus of the Spanish state our comrades have and continue to be taken to court by their former comrades in the CNT ICL. Initials and logos of the CNT have been trade marked and they are seeking fines of 50,000 Euro from each of over 30 unions affiliated to the CNT-IWA.

A statement was read by a member of our south Ulster Local detailing the ongoing attacks on our comrades and expressing our solidarity. The event drew a small crowd including some Spanish tourists who gave a round of applause and shouted 'No Pasaran!' at the conclusion of our statement. Even random tourists can see that the legal action by the Spanish ICL-CIT affiliate is destructive to class solidarity and only benefits the bosses and capital, the true enemies of workers everywhere.